

I know the old New Englander that said, "There is no such thing as a poor farm, there are just poor farmers." But this is not entirely true.

Some of these people, the holding would have to be so large and the difficult of getting a living from the soil is just so great that it is pretty difficult to understand how a young man could expand an operation in some of these areas, and never become a very stable economic unit in terms of being able to compete with the good productive areas of the rest of our Nation.

I don't think we ought to try to direct young people in that direction unless they can see a reasonably good chance of making a reasonably good living.

Then the next thing is how do we direct these people in these areas we are talking about so that they can make a living at something else when they have the poor education they have and a number of other things. We have to attack that problem, too, so that if we are not going to keep them on the land in poverty we certainly do not want to move them into the city in poverty. We must give them something better than that, because we have solved nothing simply moving them off the welfare rolls on the land, in the country, on to the welfare rolls of the city.

We must get at the root of this thing which is basically education and the things, the skills, that give them a chance to make a living in our industrial society.

Mr. BELL. So you would move directly into, as I get it, into a training program, training pointed directly toward giving them a skill in some other area that would prepare them for other parts of the country, maybe the city, or wherever it may be. Is that correct?

Mr. GRAHAM. I think we have to do that as part of the ARA and ARD program and we also have to move beyond that to see that as often as possible they get businesses and industries in their areas so that they have a chance of living. There is no one way we go in this, it seems to us. We go all the ways we can go to move into a problem.

Mr. BELL. In a situation like that, Mr. Graham, how would you determine and who would determine which person stays on the farm, which person goes to the city and gets trained? Would you do this on an age basis? Would you do this on a viability of the farm basis? Or would you do it on a combination basis? How would you decide and who would decide?

Mr. GRAHAM. I don't think anybody should decide too much beyond the men that are involved. This gets into an area of compulsion that is repugnant to us. If a man wants to live on the farm and shows his opportunities to do that, his ability to do that, let us help if we can. But some of these people don't want to live there and yet they don't have the skills to go anywhere else.

I think it is a matter of personal desire in America as far as possible. If a man chooses to go one direction to make a living and it looks like he has the ability to do that, if he has the ability to do that, if he has sufficient education and sufficient skills, then if helping him get this education and skill takes him off the poverty roll into being a productive citizens, then this seems to us to be a practical answer to the poverty problem.